Radio St HELENA

THE CASTLE, JAMESTOWN, ST. HELENA, SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
Telephone: 4669 Telex: 4202 Fax: [redacted] 4542.
4542
4654

February 1995

Dear Friend,

Thank you for making contact with us following our 1994 Radio St Helena Day worldwide transmission of 14th October. Many months have since passed during which time we have received many reception reports. We are now in the process of checking and verifying these and, of course, those people whose reports coincide with our transmission details are being sent a QSL card. If you're one of those people who also heard our previous transmissions, then the QSL will be another to add to your collection.

For the benefit of first time contacts, here is some information regarding the history of Radio St Helena. The station, which is owned and operated by the St Helena Government, was officially opened on 25th December 1967. In a few years time we will be celebrating our 30th birthday! We operate on a frequency of 1548 KHz, 194 metres in the medium wave band. Our staff consists of four full-time people including myself, plus a number of voluntary producers of programmes. From 9 am to 3 pm, Mondays to Fridays, we relay the BBC World Service programmes; our own local programmes take the air from 3 pm to 10.30 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays our transmission is from 7 to 10.30 pm only. Unfortunately we don't have enough staff to cope with all day broadcasting at weekends as well.

We cater for all ages with a great variety of programmes; the majority of which are compiled locally. However, we also purchase quite a lot of material from the BBC Topical Tapes and Transcription Service. This depends on availability of funds since we have only a small budget allocated to us for this purpose. Any material received from overseas is always welcome, we do pay royalties.

We have two fully equipped studios which can accommodate almost every type of recording and presentation and our transmitter is a "Harris Gates One" with an output of one thousand watts.

Incidentally we have two transmitters which are now collectors items. They are two Marconi 214's Excommunications models built in 1944-1945 and they are still in working order.

There is only one Radio Station operating on the Island, but very soon we should be receiving television via satellite. What effect this will have on radio remains to be seen, but we maintain that there is always a place for radio.

Our aim is to inform, educate and entertain, this has always been our policy and it will always remain. As Station Manager, I honestly believe that our dedicated small staff operating a station on St Helena with very limited funds and resources available at our disposal can match any station in any other part of the world, from its output of programme point of view, which we are proud of.

When you heard us on 14th October 1994, the programme was transmitted on 11.092.5 MHz using a transmitter owned and operated by Cable and Wireless Plc. This is a "REDIFON" transmitter with an output of 1.5 KW. It was manufactured in 1969 and is used approximately four times per month on HF for ship to shore transmissions. Cable and Wireless can also transmit on 10.135 KHz, 6.885 KHz and 3.162 KHz, these frequencies are seldom used. For our special 'round the world' broadcast Cable and Wireless received our medium wave transmission on 1548 KHz and rebroadcast this on 11.092.5 MHz. We have been asked why was the transmission reception in Europe so bad this time. I have no answer to this and can only suggest that it was due to propagation conditions.

Those of you who did not hear the transmission very well can purchase a recording of our 1994 programme from SATT (i.e. South Atlantic Travel and Trade), Box 6014, s-600-06, NORRKÖPING, Sweden. (Fax: 46-11-170207). The recording will cost you $10 US dollars or £7 pounds sterling.

We are also offering a commemorative T-shirt to anyone who actually heard our transmission. All you need to do is to send us US $24 or £15 by cheque or money order and SATT will forward your T-shirt on to you.

Please give your name and address clearly. Our address is: Radio St Helena, Jamestown, Island of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean. (Note our fax no is: 290 4542 and not 290 2598).

For your information, Radio St Helena Day will not be celebrated in 1995. Hopefully we will be on the air in 1996 on 25th October, but confirmation of this will be done through DX magazines and SATT in Sweden.

By all accounts, our worldwide transmission has been appreciated throughout the world regardless of the poor reception in some areas. We have received 1,025 correct reports for 1993 and all reports have been acknowledged. We shall have to wait and see what our mailbag brings forth as a result of our 1994 transmission.

St Helena, together with the islands of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, form one of the oldest colonies and whilst Ascension has an airport, the only means of access to St Helena and Tristan is by sea. St Helena is served by one ship, the *RMS St Helena*, which operates between Cardiff in England to Cape Town in South Africa, calling at Tenerife, Ascension and St Helena en route, and once a year at our very remote sister island, Tristan da Cunha. We are completely dependent on the *RMS St Helena* for bringing in foodstuffs, medical supplies, machinery and equipment and just about everything, plus passengers and mail. The Island is in no way self sufficient and all commodities have to be imported. We have no major industries and the only exports are small quantities of fish, coffee, honey, timber and local handicrafts. We therefore depend almost entirely on funding from the British Government.

Our Island however, does have a very interesting history and is probably known most for being the place of Napoleon Bonaparte's final exile in 1815 and his subsequent death here in 1821. The houses in which he lived and his original grave are owned and maintained by the French Government and attract much interest. If you would like more information about the Island of St Helena, then I suggest you write or fax Jan Tuner or John Eckwall who were actually responsible for setting up the worldwide shortwave transmission for 1994 and also previous years.

These two people became so interested in the Island after the first shortwave broadcast in 1990, that they just could not resist visiting the Island a year later in 1991. As a result they returned to Sweden and set up SATT, which offers information about St Helena and what you need to do if you also would like to pay us a visit. Jan Tuner's fax no is: 46 240 23037 and John Eckwall's fax no is: 46 11 170207. In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for your participation in the 1994 event and if you have heard us in previous years then I congratulate you. It was simply rewarding reading your letters and reports. It was also a thrill broadcasting to the world, and have the world call you by phone on the actual radio show.

I am sorry it is not possible to answer each individual letter or comply with each request, but I hope this news letter will suffice.

Don't forget if you require a T-shirt please state size and also send a cheque or international money order, made payable to Radio St Helena. I must also express my gratitude to those of you who entered the lottery, by sending a CD. Within a few months the draw will take place, and you will be notified by letter if you are the winner, so keep your fingers crossed. Good Luck.

From all the staff at Radio St Helena we send you our good wishes. I would like to repeat what I wrote last year: "If radio is the means by which to make so many new friends, then long live radio and long live Radio St Helena".

Happy listening across the miles.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Leo

Tony Leo
Station Manager